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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a complete listing of the pending claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A device for facilitating hearing, the device comprising:

an earpiece configured to be captured at least partially within the conchae of an ear, the earpiece comprising at least one generally arcuate rib and at least one generally vertical rib, the generally vertical rib extending between points proximate ends of the arcuate rib;

an acoustic conduit configured so as to cause sound to pass through the earpiece;

and

wherein the earpiece is configured for use in either ear by re-orienting the earpiece without re-configuring the earpiece.
2. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece comprises detents configured to be captured by the conchae.
3. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is configured to be captured by protrusions of the conchae.
4. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is configured to be captured at least partially by the antihelix of the ear.
5. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is generally symmetric.
6. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is generally symmetric about a plane that bisects the earpiece.

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7. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is generally symmetric about a plane that bisects the earpiece between the top and bottom thereof.
8. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is configured such that one size thereof fits a range of sizes of ears.
9. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is configured such that one size fits most adult ears.
10. canceled
11. canceled
12. canceled
13. canceled
14. canceled
15. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is formed of a resilient polymer.
16. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is formed of a resilient polymer having a Shore A durometer of between approximately 35 and approximately 45.
17. (original) The device as recited in claim 1; wherein the earpiece is formed of a resilient polymer having a Shore A durometer of approximately 40.

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18. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is formed by injection molding.

Claims 19-24 (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) A method for manufacturing an earpiece, the method comprising:

forming an earpiece from a polymer material;

wherein the earpiece is configured to be captured at least partially within the conchae of an ear;

wherein the earpiece comprises a generally arcuate rib and a generally vertical rib formed so as to generally define the letter D, and also comprises a boss having a bore formed therethrough, the boss being formed to the generally vertical rib; and

wherein the earpiece is sufficiently symmetrical to be configured for use in either the right or left ear.

26. (original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the polymer material comprises a resilient polymer material.

27. (original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the earpiece is formed by injection molding.

28. (previously presented) A method for using a portable communication system, the method comprising:

inserting an earpiece into the ear such that the earpiece is held in place at least partially by the conchae;

wherein the earpiece comprises a generally arcuate rib and a generally vertical rib formed so as to generally define the letter D, and also comprises a boss having a bore formed therethrough, the boss being formed to the generally vertical rib; and

wherein the earpiece is sufficiently symmetrical to be configured for use in either the right or left ear.

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29. (previously presented) A method for using an earpiece, the method comprising:
removing the earpiece from one ear;
re-orienting the earpiece without re-configuring the earpiece;
placing the earpiece in the other ear such that the earpiece is held in place
at least partially by the conchae;
wherein the earpiece comprises a generally arcuate rib and a generally vertical rib
formed so as to generally define the letter D, and also comprises a boss having a bore
formed therethrough, the boss being formed to the generally vertical rib; and
wherein the earpiece is sufficiently symmetrical to be configured for use in either
the right or left ear.
30. (canceled)
31. (cancelled)
32. (previously presented) An earpiece configured to be captured within the conchae
of an ear by at least one of:
an antihelix;
a back rim of the conchae;
a tragus;
an antitragus;
wherein the earpiece comprises a generally arcuate rib and a generally vertical rib
formed so as to generally define the letter D, and also comprises a boss having a bore
formed therethrough, the boss being formed to the generally vertical rib; and
wherein the earpiece is sufficiently symmetrical to be configured for use in either
the right or left ear.
33. (previously presented) The earpiece as recited in claim 32, wherein a portion
thereof is captured between a crus of helix and the antihelix.
34. (cancelled)

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35. (canceled)
36. (previously presented) An earpiece comprising:
a generally arcuate rib;
a generally vertical rib;
a boss formed upon the vertical rib and configured to at least partially enter an ear canal;
a bore formed through the boss;
wherein the arcuate rib and the vertical rib cooperate to generally define the letter D;
wherein the boss, the arcuate rib, and the vertical rib are symmetrical about a plane that bisects the earpiece between top and bottom halves thereof;
wherein the earpiece is configured to be captured at least partially within the conchae of the ear; and
wherein the earpiece is configured for use in either ear by re-orientating the earpiece without re-configuring the earpiece.
37. (new) A device for facilitating hearing, the device comprising:
an earpiece configured to be captured at least partially within the conchae of an ear, the earpiece comprising two ribs that are generally configured to define a D;
an acoustic conduit configured so as to cause sound to pass through the earpiece;
and
wherein the earpiece is configured for use in either ear by re-orienting the earpiece without re-configuring the earpiece.
38. (new) A device for facilitating hearing, the device comprising:
an earpiece configured to be captured at least partially within the conchae of an ear, the earpiece comprising a boss having a bore formed therethrough, the boss being configured to extend at least partially into the ear canal;

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an acoustic conduit configured so as to cause sound to pass through the earpiece;
and

wherein the earpiece is configured for use in either ear by re-orienting the
earpiece without re-configuring the earpiece.

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